



Meeting Notes

Place: Jaffrey Town Hall

Date: May 9, 2017

Notes Taken by: P. Clary

Project #: 52457.01

Re: Jaffrey Route 202 Dogleg #16307

Advisory Committee Attendees:

Max Mitchell, Chamber of Commerce

Stephanie Niemela, TEAM Jaffrey

Keith Dupuis, Industrial business/trucking

Carolyn Garretson, Conservation Commission

Don Stewart, Citizen at Large

Ed Merrell, Planning Board

David Reilly, Schools

Jon Frederick, Town Manager

Frank Sterling, Selectboard

Randy Heglin, DPW

Bill Oswalt, Police

David Chamberlain, Fire

Jo Anne Carr, Planning/EDC

Victoria Chase, NHDOT

Marty Kennedy, VHB

Pete Clary, VHB

Non-committee member attendees

Caroline Hollister, The Park Theatre

Dan Lawn, Resident

Stephanie Dionne – on John Peard’s behalf

Mr. Kennedy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting for the Jaffrey Route 202 Dogleg Study. After having everyone in the room introduce themselves, Mr. Kennedy proceeded to discuss the role of the Project Advisory Committee including the following:

- Committee members are expected to represent and serve as a liaison to the community.
- The Committee serves in an advisory role and is not a decision-making body. However, as a group, the Committee will be asked to seek consensus.
- Committee members are asked to work as team, respect all opinions and refrain from monopolizing the conversation.
- Expect approximately nine Committee meetings over the next 18 months.
- We’ll send out a notice of the meeting, agenda, and any review material by e-mail in advance of each meeting.
- Expect meetings to go between 1 ½ and 2 hours. We start meetings on time and we end them on time.

Mr. Kennedy continued with a brief overview of the project history, the study scope, the plan for public outreach, the study schedule, and concluded with a discussion on some of the traffic volume counts that were recently conducted. He also showed the Committee a video clip of a drone view of the dogleg intersections.

The following questions and comments were discussed during and after the presentation:

1. Where the TAC isn’t a decision-making entity, has the alternative(s) already been determined? ANSWER: No, the study will include the development and evaluation of various alternatives based on input and feedback from the TAC and the public at large. The benefits and challenges of each alternative will be presented and

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discussed in a public forum to solicit the widest possible public input. Ultimately, the NHDOT will select a preferred alternative (proposed action) to advance to the Public Hearing.

2. Is there a statement defining the study purpose? ANSWER: A Purpose and Need statement will be developed early in the study so that the various alternatives can be developed. Each alternative will be evaluated with regard to how well it meets the Purpose and Need. The TAC will be involved in the development of the Purpose and Need statement.
3. The 2010 Plan NH Charrette generated a lot of interest and excitement and it's good to see the project moving forward again.
4. What is the overall schedule for the project? ANSWER: The project has been successfully added to the NHDOT Ten Year Plan through the efforts of the Town of Jaffrey and the Southwest Regional Planning Commission. The schedule for the study is to be completed at the end of 2018. Following a successful Public Hearing, the project would advance to final design. During final design the engineering plans are completed, the property rights are acquired and the environmental permits are secured. The duration of final design will depend on the extent of the selected alternative. Funding for construction is currently scheduled for fiscal year 2022 with construction anticipated to begin in 2022 or 2023.
5. Can the existing traffic signals be synchronized to improve the operations? ANSWER: The signal timings could probably be adjusted to provide slight improvements to the intersection operations. However, modifications to the signal timings alone are unlikely to solve the larger congestion problem. Nevertheless, the study will evaluate any reasonable opportunities to improve operations through signal timing modifications.
6. Is traffic the primary concern for the study? ANSWER: Enhancing the safe and efficient movement of motor vehicles (automobiles and trucks) is one element of the study. However, all modes of mobility including pedestrian, bicyclist, and bus will be considered. Additionally, alternatives will be evaluated as to their consistency with the town's vision for the downtown.
7. What are the study limits? ANSWER: The study limits are currently defined by the previously identified alternatives. However, these limits will be modified (increased or narrowed) based on the development of actual alternatives.
8. Can there be a comment section added to the project website? ANSWER: The NHDOT, Town of Jaffrey and VHB will discuss the details and logistics of providing this.
9. Are these TAC Meetings open to the public? ANSWER: The Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. However, active participation in the meetings is limited to Committee members. The general public will have opportunities for extensive engagement through separate public informational meetings and workshops. In addition, the public will be encouraged to reach out to Advisory Committee members to share their thoughts. The public will also have full access to the study webpage, project newsletters, and will be able to submit comments and questions to VHB's project manager.